

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A server for a supply-based management system, comprising:

a plurality of business process entity beans, comprising:

a request-for-quotation (RFQ) process entity bean,

a quotation process entity bean, and

a purchase order (PO) process entity bean; and

a notification manager.

2. The server of claim 1, wherein a RFQ process implemented by the RFQ

entity bean comprises the steps of:

(a) creating an RFQ by a buyer;

(b) selecting a list of suppliers by the buyer; and

(c) sending the RFQ to the selected suppliers.

3. The server of claim 1, wherein a quotation process implemented by the

quotation entity bean comprises the steps of:

(a) reviewing a RFQ from a buyer by a supplier; and

(b) responding to the RFQ by the supplier.

4. The server of claim 3, wherein the responding step (b) comprises:

(b1) ignoring the RFQ by the supplier.

5. The server of claim 3, wherein the responding step (b) comprises:

(b1) declining the RFQ by the supplier.

6. The server of claim 3, wherein the responding step (b) comprises:

(b1) providing a quote to the buyer by the supplier.

7. The server of claim 6, further comprising:

(b2) declining the quote by the buyer.

8. The server of claim 6, further comprising:

(b2) accepting the quote by the buyer.

9. The server of claim 6, further comprising:

(b2) providing a counter quote to the supplier by the buyer.

10. The server of claim 1, wherein a PO process implemented by the PO entity

bean comprises the steps of:

(a) creating a PO by the buyer; and

(b) responding to the PO by the supplier.

11. The server of claim 10, wherein the responding step (b) comprises:

(b1) declining the PO by the supplier.

12. The server of claim 10, wherein the responding step (b) comprises:

(b1) acknowledging the PO by the supplier.

13. The server of claim 12, further comprising:

(b2) filling the PO by the supplier.

14. The server of claim 12, further comprising:

(b2) requesting a change in the PO by the supplier;

(b3) accepting the requested change by the buyer;

(b4) editing the PO by the buyer; and

(b5) sending the edited PO from the buyer to the supplier.

15. The server of claim 1, wherein the notification manager manages transmissions of messages from a sender to a recipient.

16. A supply-based management system in a network environment, comprising:

a front-end, comprising:

a user interface,

a controller coupled to the user interface, and

a business process router coupled to the controller; and

a server, comprising:

a plurality of business process entity beans, comprising:

a RFQ process entity bean,

a quotation process entity bean, and
a PO process entity bean, and
a notification manager.

5 17. The system of claim 16, wherein the user interface comprises a plurality of
Java server pages.

18. The system of claim 16, wherein the controller controls a transfer of data
between the front end and the server.

10 19. The system of claim 16, wherein the business process router identifies
processes to which incoming data are to be passed for processing.

15 20. The system of claim 16, wherein a RFQ process implemented by the RFQ
entity bean comprises the steps of:

- (a) creating an RFQ by a buyer;
- (b) selecting a list of suppliers by the buyer; and
- (c) sending the RFQ to the selected suppliers.

20 21. The system of claim 16, wherein a quotation process implemented by the
quotation entity bean comprises the steps of:

- (a) reviewing a RFQ from a buyer by a supplier; and
- (b) responding to the RFQ by the supplier.

22. The system of claim 21, wherein the responding step (b) comprises:

(b1) ignoring the RFQ by the supplier.

23. The system of claim 21, wherein the responding step (b) comprises:

(b1) declining the RFQ by the supplier.

24. The system of claim 21, wherein the responding step (b) comprises:

(b1) providing a quote to the buyer by the supplier.

25. The system of claim 24, further comprising:

(b2) declining the quote by the buyer.

26. The system of claim 24, further comprising:

(b2) accepting the quote by the buyer.

27. The system of claim 24, further comprising:

(b2) providing a counter quote to the supplier by the buyer.

28. The system of claim 16, wherein a PO process implemented by the PO entity

bean comprises the steps of:

(a) creating a PO by the buyer; and

(b) responding to the PO by the supplier.

29. The system of claim 28, wherein the responding step (b) comprises:

(b1) declining the PO by the supplier.

30. The system of claim 28, wherein the responding step (b) comprises:

(b1) acknowledging the PO by the supplier.

31. The system of claim 30, further comprising:

(b2) filling the PO by the supplier.

32. The system of claim 30, further comprising:

(b2) requesting a change in the PO by the supplier;

(b3) accepting the requested change by the buyer;

(b4) editing the PO by the buyer; and

(b5) sending the edited PO from the buyer to the supplier.

33. The system of claim 16, wherein the notification manager manages transmissions of messages from a sender to a recipient.

34. A computer readable medium with program instructions for implementing a RFQ process for a supply-based management system, the instructions for:

(a) creating an RFQ by a buyer;

(b) selecting a list of suppliers by the buyer; and

(c) sending the RFQ to the selected suppliers.

35. A computer readable medium with program instructions for implementing a quotation process for a supply-based management system, the instructions for:

- (a) reviewing a RFQ from a buyer by a supplier; and
- (b) responding to the RFQ by the supplier.

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36. The medium of claim 35, wherein the responding instruction (b) comprises the instructions for:

- (b1) ignoring the RFQ by the supplier.

37. The medium of claim 35, wherein the responding instruction (b) comprises instructions for:

- (b1) declining the RFQ by the supplier.

38. The medium of claim 35, wherein the responding instruction (b) comprises instructions for:

- (b1) providing a quote to the buyer by the supplier.

39. The medium of claim 38, further comprising instructions for:

- (b2) declining the quote by the buyer.

40. The medium of claim 38, further comprising instructions for:

- (b2) accepting the quote by the buyer.

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41. The medium of claim 38, further comprising instructions for:

(b2) providing a counter quote to the supplier by the buyer.

42. A computer readable medium with program instructions for implementing a

5 PO process for a supply-based management system, the instructions for:

(a) creating a PO by the buyer; and

(b) responding to the PO by the supplier.

43. The medium of claim 42, wherein the responding instruction (b) comprises

10 instructions for:

(b1) declining the PO by the supplier.

44. The medium of claim 42, wherein the responding instruction (b) comprises

15 instructions for:

(b1) acknowledging the PO by the supplier.

45. The medium of claim 44, further comprising:

(b2) filling the PO by the supplier.

20 46. The medium of claim 44, further comprising:

(b2) requesting a change in the PO by the supplier;

(b3) accepting the requested change by the buyer;

(b4) editing the PO by the buyer; and

(b5) sending the edited PO from the buyer to the supplier.

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